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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/46/150.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report has been prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolution 45/5 of 16 October 1990 concerning cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System (SELA), adopted by the Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

2. Paragraphs 3 to 8 of that resolution read:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "...
>
> "3. Urges the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to continue broadening and deepening its coordination and mutual support activities with the Latin American Economic System;
>
> "4. Urges the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen and broaden its support to the programmes that the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System is carrying out;
>
> "5. Urges the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to continue and intensify their support for and cooperation with the activities of the Latin American Economic System;
>
> "6. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to promote, in close collaboration with the Permanent Secretary of the Latin American Economic System, the holding of a meeting in 1991 between their respective secretariats, with the aim of identifying those areas in which it will be possible to broaden cooperation between the United Nations system and the Latin American Economic System;
>
> "7. Requests both the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Permanent Secretary of the Latin American Economic System to continue consultations with a view to signing, as soon as possible, an agreement of cooperation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System;
>
> "8. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution."

3. For the preparation of the present report, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) wrote to the following organizations of the United Nations system requesting an update of their activities with SELA, to be included in the report to the Secretary-General: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), International Atomic

Energy Agency (IAEA), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Universal Postal Union (UPU), World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO), United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), United Nations University (UNU), World Food Council (WFC) and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). Seven of these replied by sending a summary of their activities in cooperation with SELA. Four noted that they had no new information to add to that provided in document A/45/514. Four noted that they did not currently carry out any activities with SELA; a number of them, however, expressed their desire to do so in future. The following summary was based on all of this information.

II. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

4. As can be seen by the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session (A/45/514), since the establishment in October 1975 of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), considerable cooperation has taken place between the United Nations and SELA, in particular with ECLAC, but also with other organizations, agencies and programmes of the United Nations system.

5. As the present report shows, this cooperation has tended to be diversified both in respect of the areas and of the organizations concerned.

6. Pursuant to the above-mentioned General Assembly resolution, and various resolutions adopted in recent years by ECLAC (see resolutions 425 (XIX), 431 (XIX), 439 (XIX), 475 (XX), 458 (XX), 476 (XXI), 491 (XXII) and 508 (XXIII)), a natural, close and fruitful cooperation has continued to develop between ECLAC and SELA, a summary of which is provided in the following paragraphs in respect of the period covered by the present report.

7. Cooperation between ECLAC and SELA has included the participation of ECLAC representatives in various meetings convened by the Permanent Secretariat of SELA and vice versa, and the preparation by ECLAC of specialized documents in varied fields designed to support SELA activities. Some of the many aspects of that cooperation are set forth below.

8. In relation to transport, at the request of the third ordinary meeting of the Latin American Commission for Maritime Transport (COLTRAM) of SELA, which was held from 22 to 24 May 1989, ECLAC prepared a study on the restructuring of regional ports, which also covered aspects related to legislation, management, services, market and technology. This document was published under the title "Structural Changes in Ports and the Competitiveness of Latin American and Caribbean Foreign Trade" (Cuadernos de la CEPAL No. 65, 1991).

9. With regard to industry and technology, ECLAC has been collaborating with SELA in the preparation of the Regional Conference on Industrialization, which is being sponsored by SELA and will be held in October 1991. In support of the Conference ECLAC prepared documents on three topics, namely, changing production patterns, industrial development policies and the environment. The necessary coordination between the two institutions is being assured through inter-agency meetings, in which representatives of UNIDO have also participated.

10. With regard to social policies at the request of the First Meeting of Organizations on Proposals for Integrated Social Policies vis-à-vis the Macroeconomic Adjustments in the Latin American and Caribbean Region, organized by SELA and held at Caracas on 11 and 12 June 1990, ECLAC is acting as a focal point for coordination of joint inter-agency tasks. The first of these, in which ECLAC and SELA are working closely together, is the preparation of a conceptual synthesis to cover and integrate the main proposals put forward by the agencies with respect to social development. The most recent inter-agency meeting was held at ECLAC headquarters at Santiago, from 25 to 27 March 1991.

11. In the area of forward planning through the coordinating mechanism set up by the Meeting to Coordinate the Work of Regional Organizations in the Area of Forward Economic Planning (SELA/ILPES), held in March 1989 and in which the Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions (ALIDE), the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), UNESCO, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and ECLAC participated, joint work was undertaken in the seminar "Latin America and the world towards the year 2000", organized by UNESCO and held at Quito from 30 April to 6 May 1989; in the seminar "Methodologies of analysis of the international economic climate: a Latin American perspective", organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and the Regional Centre for Third World Studies (CRESET) and held at Bogotá on 27 and 28 June 1989; in the International Meeting on International Economic Prospects and Energy Markets, organized by OLADE and held at Rio de Janeiro from 5 to 8 June 1990; and in the seminar "The international economy: a Latin American perspective", organized at Huelva, Spain, from 20 to 24 August 1990, by ILPES and the Hispanic American University of Rábida.

12. In the area of technical cooperation ECLAC has intensified its activities in support of SELA at meetings of the directors of international technical cooperation and of the regional inter-agency coordination mechanism in the field of technical cooperation. At the annual meeting of these directors,

held from 3 to 6 September 1990, ECLAC submitted a report on its activities in this field. Following this meeting, on 7 September 1990, the inter-agency coordination mechanism, which has been functioning regularly since 1989, held its fifth meeting. At that meeting, progress was made on specifying the contents and procedures of the regional planning exercise on horizontal cooperation in health, in which ECLAC participates together with UNDP, WHO and SELA. In addition, ECLAC provided updated information on its technical cooperation projects for inclusion in the information system of the Project on the Status of Regional Cooperation being executed by SELA.

13. With regard to services, ECLAC participated in the following SELA meetings, held under the UNCTAD/ECLAC/UNDP project on assistance in the development of trade and trade negotiations: Meeting of Experts on International Trade in Insurance (10-11 September 1990); Meeting of Experts on International Trade in Construction-related Services (11-12 September 1990); Meeting of Experts on International Trade in Professional Services (13-14 September 1990); and Meeting of Experts on International Trade in Tourism (14-15 September 1990), all of which were held at Caracas. The purpose of these meetings was to strengthen efforts to identify Latin American and Caribbean interests in relation to the Uruguay Round negotiations on services. The conclusions were presented at the ministerial meeting held at Brussels from 3 to 7 December 1990. The results of the four meetings have also been used by Governments in the formulation of their trade policies with regard to services, especially in reference to the negotiation of initial commitments in the context of Uruguay Round agreements. A book containing studies and analyses of these activities is now being prepared.

14. In the area of external economic relations, especially with regard to Latin American and Caribbean relations with the United States of America and Japan, ECLAC supported SELA activities by providing it with studies on the topic, and also helped to formulate negotiation agendas for the use of the countries of the region. Particularly noteworthy was the ECLAC participation in a consultative meeting on Latin American and Caribbean relations with the United States, held at Caracas from 22 to 24 April 1991. Moreover, an ECLAC expert prepared a document for a meeting of experts (invited on a personal basis) on Latin American and Caribbean relations with Japan, which is scheduled to take place during the second half of 1991.

15. ECLAC also participated in the Regional Conference on External Debt, organized by SELA, which was held at Caracas from 18 to 22 June 1990. As a contribution to that Conference, ECLAC and SELA prepared a document entitled "Endeudamiento externo y crecimiento económico de America Latina y el Caribe: consecuencias económicas de la propuesta de reducción de la carga de la deuda formulada por la Secretaría Permanente del SELA comparadas con la de escenarios alternativos" [External debt and economic growth of Latin America and the Caribbean: economic consequences of the proposal of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA on debt reduction as compared with alternative scenarios] (LC/R.841, 29 December 1989), which served as a basis for the debates by States members of SELA, culminating in the Latin American and Caribbean Proposal for a Solution to the External Debt Problem. This proposal was

distributed as an official document at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly (A/45/334). In its resolution 45/214 of 21 December 1990, entitled "International debt crisis and development: enhanced international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problems of developing countries", the General Assembly noted the proposals made by SELA.

16. ECLAC also participated in the Meeting of Integration and Cooperation Agencies of Latin America and the Caribbean and of Experts on Tasks of Latin American Integration, held at Caracas from 1 to 2 August 1991.

17. In other areas, such as economic and social documentation, the environment and human settlements, consultations were held with a view to future joint action.

18. Cooperation between UNDP and SELA is continuing on the basis of the project on institutional support to SELA for the period 1989-1991 (RLA/87/028), enabling SELA and UNDP to identify priority areas for joint action.

19. Since 1973, a total of $US 4 million has been allocated from the regional indicative planning figure (IPF) for this purpose. Five technical cooperation projects have been implemented, ranging from direct institutional support and strengthening of SELA's secretariat to assistance in policy concertation, formulation of external economic relations strategies and promotion of regional integration and cooperation. UNDP is prepared to continue with this fruitful collaboration beyond the parameters of the ongoing assistance. To this effect, discussions will be held with Governments and SELA officials within the framework of the fifth programming cycle.

20. In May 1991, the Permanent Secretariat of SELA received a project evaluation mission. This mission concluded that the project on institutional support to SELA had adequately met the proposed targets and indicated that the contributing factors in this result were the good design of the project document, together with the project's concentration on a few well-defined areas and its efficient administration. The evaluation mission recommended that cooperation between UNDP and SELA should be maintained, since the results already achieved would ensure a successful continuation in future. To that end, work has begun on identifying possible spheres of effort for the next project so that it can be designed and formulated.

21. The Permanent Secretariat of SELA has the technical and financial support of the UNDP Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries for holding meetings of directors of technical cooperation in the context of regular meetings of the Latin American Council of SELA. This support has made it possible to formulate a working strategy designed to strengthen the national focal points for coordination of technical cooperation and to identify which activities and projects have priority. This identification of priority areas has allowed for the promotion of programming and negotiation exercises for technical cooperation among developing countries (TCDC) in specific areas. The first negotiation exercise was carried out in 1989 in

agriculture, in coordination with the UNDP Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, the Latin American Fisheries Development Organization (OLDEPESCA), FAO, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and SELA. Work is currently under way on the preparation of a TCDC negotiation exercise in the area of primary health care, in coordination with the UNDP Special Unit, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), ECLAC and SELA. Two additional exercises are planned for 1992 in the areas of international trade and technological innovation and industrialization, which will be coordinated with the UNDP Special Unit, SELA, UNCTAD and UNIDO.

22. The Permanent Secretariat of SELA participated in inter-agency meetings for coordination of technical cooperation on biotechnology, convened by UNDP at Mexico City and Caracas in March and June 1991, respectively. In addition, the Permanent Secretariat attended a meeting to analyse the possibilities for investment in the cane sugar agro-industry in Latin America and the Caribbean organized by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Sugar Exporting Countries (GEPLACEA) and UNDP, which was held at Mexico City from 5 to 8 March 1991, in connection with the project being carried out under the auspices of UNDP since 1987 on diversification of the cane sugar agro-industry.

23. Cooperation between UNESCO and SELA has continued under the cooperation agreement signed on 20 July 1988 between the two organizations. SELA has made available to UNESCO its regional information infrastructure (data bank) and its network of specialized committees in the various socio-economic sectors. UNESCO, for its part, has invited SELA to participate as an observer at important meetings held in the region, such as the International Congress on Planning and Management of Educational Development (Mexico City, 1990).

24. Cooperation in the field of education has been carried out through the UNESCO Subregional Office for Education for Central America and Panama, headquartered at San José, Costa Rica, and the Action Committee in Support of the Economic and Social Development of Central America (CADESCA), under the auspices of SELA. The cultural dimension of development, on which UNESCO is promoting reflection and action (in particular through the Programme of the World Decade for Cultural Development), was considered at a joint meeting held at Caracas in 1989 on indicators and methodology to facilitate the integration of the cultural dimension with planning. The social sciences have been a key sector in cooperation between SELA and UNESCO. Studies have been carried out on integrated social policies. With the participation of the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries of UNDP, preparations for a TCDC supply and demand operation were initiated in 1989. The Permanent Secretariat participated, together with UNESCO, ECLAC, UNDP and UNICEF, in the Second Meeting of Organizations on Proposals for Integrated Social Policies vis-à-vis the Macroeconomic Adjustments in the Latin American and Caribbean Region, held at Santiago on 25 and 26 April 1991, during which the participants explored the topic further and formulated action proposals.

25. With regard to studies on forward planning, SELA organized inter-agency coordination by sponsoring an initial meeting held in 1989, as mentioned in paragraph 11. Eighteen agencies were convened at a second meeting, held at

Caracas in March 1990, which gave special consideration to prospective studies in cooperation with the UNESCO network and to the training of administrative staff.

26. A number of activities were also carried out in the field of intellectual property, specifically with regard to copyright and similar rights. UNESCO provided support and collaboration in the preparation of a study on piracy of intellectual property in Latin America and in the holding of the First Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Intellectual Property Policies in July 1990. That meeting put forward recommendations concerning joint activities in the field, in the context of the work of the Forum. Thus, in the following months, meetings and consultations were held with UNESCO, at which two concrete activities were planned: expanding the above-mentioned study to include the results of a survey conducted by SELA member States, on the one hand; and, on the other, convening a meeting of experts on copyright law, using UNESCO resources to finance the participation of seven experts. These activities were carried out jointly with the holding of the second meeting of the Forum in May 1991, which also had the support of UNESCO and the direct participation of UNESCO staff.

27. At the second meeting of the Forum new activities were discussed for a joint work programme to be carried out in the period that will culminate in the third meeting of the Forum. These include the following: compiling the existing studies in the region on standardization of penal codes with regard to copyright; preparing a pilot study to analyse, in some countries, the effect on gross domestic product and other indicators of the production and marketing of goods and services protected by copyright; promoting, under the auspices of SELA, the holding of annual meetings of heads of administration of copyright law in member States; and holding another meeting of experts on copyright law for purposes of the third meeting of the Forum, on the basis of a previously agreed agenda.

28. In relation to cooperation between UNEP and SELA, the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, headquartered at Mexico City, held talks at the Caracas inter-agency meeting with representatives of SELA to inform them about the work of the programme and to recommend that they should use this framework for specific activities in the field of marine and coastal resource management in the subregion. Joint efforts may be carried out on the topic in future.

29. ILO, through the Regional Employment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean, has been conducting studies and has carried out a series of activities in cooperation with SELA in the area of employment, and has also been submitting proposals concerning the social effects of the crisis and the macroeconomic adjustments needed to deal with it.

30. As part of that effort, the Regional Employment Programme, on behalf of ILO, participated in the Meeting of International Agencies on the Social Impact of the Crisis, the External Debt and Adjustment Policies, organized by SELA and held at Caracas on 11 and 12 June 1990. At this meeting, a report

was presented on the main activities of the Programme in the area of integrated policies, and a steering committee was set up in which the Programme will participate directly.

31. WIPO participated in the Fifteenth Meeting of the Latin American Council of SELA (Cartagena, Colombia, July-August 1989). The Meeting established the Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Intellectual Property Policies, for the purpose of promoting regional consultation, coordination and cooperation initiatives on the topic. WIPO was invited to provide technical cooperation to the Forum. In December 1989, the WIPO International Bureau submitted proposals to SELA for holding a meeting of experts on intellectual property matters, to be organized jointly by WIPO and SELA.

32. The meeting, held at Caracas from 9 to 10 July 1990, preceded the First Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Intellectual Property, also held at Caracas from 11 to 13 July. The meeting of experts dealt with the following topics, inter alia: (a) progress and recent trends in the international protection of intellectual property; (b) WIPO activities in relation to the establishment of international intellectual property standards in 1990 and 1991; (c) storage and use of technological data contained in patent documents in the light of new technologies and their financial implications; and (d) elements of cooperation in respect of intellectual property in the region, and the coordination of relevant policies and activities. ECLAC was represented in the Regional Planning and Evaluation Meeting on Industrial Property for the Latin American countries, held at Cancún, Mexico, in November 1990, where 17 Latin American countries participated and adopted guidelines for future WIPO technical cooperation activities in the region. WIPO convened a WIPO/SELA Meeting of a Group of Experts on Intellectual Property at Caracas from 13 to 15 May 1991, immediately preceding the Second Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Intellectual Property Policies, which took place at Caracas on 16 and 17 May 1991.

33. SELA conducted a study of the draft treaty that was prepared to complement the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property in the area of patents. These analyses and others were examined at the above-mentioned meeting of experts on industrial property in May 1991. This meeting, as well as the second meeting of the Forum, received valuable collaboration and support from WIPO, and both meetings made a number of recommendations concerning joint undertakings in the field. Those recommendations included the following: to put forward the concerted position of the countries of the region during the diplomatic conference at The Hague to negotiate a treaty aimed at complementing the Paris Convention, in whose first stage the Permanent Secretariat took part in July 1991; to promote training courses and seminars in various specific subject areas; to set up a programme for the establishment of a technological warning system in sectors to be designated by the Governments; to further cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean through the promotion of such mechanisms as meetings of authorities and exchanges of experts or of documentation; and to carry out activities for the purpose of disseminating technological innovations in the region.

34. Finally, contacts were maintained between SELA and WIPO in relation to Uruguay Round negotiations on the trade related aspects of intellectual property rights.

35. The Second Programme of Cooperation for the Biennium 1990-1991 was signed on 13 July 1989 by UNIDO and SELA. It assigns priority to certain subjects that were selected within the framework of the UNIDO system of consultations, including technological development and industrial restructuring, as well as to assistance to SELA in the preparation of an integrated approach to economic and industrial development in Latin America and the Caribbean, incorporating the necessary relationships between industrialization, technology and regional integration.

36. An evaluation of joint activities determined that positive results have been achieved and that, through the close ties of cooperation existing between UNIDO and SELA, priority areas of concern to member States have been addressed in a well-planned and systematic manner. Member States have endorsed these initiatives and have participated actively in the design and implementation of programmes such as that on industrial collaboration in the field of electronics, which was agreed upon at the Meeting on Industrial Consensus-building in the Electronics Industry in Latin America, held in June 1990 at São Paulo, Brazil. In addition, they have taken part in the preparations for convening a regional consultation on the restructuring of the capital goods industry during the next biennium. Activities of interest to member States include the development and strengthening of engineering consultancy services and the possibility of production complementarities in the non-ferrous metals and construction industries. It should be noted that the UNIDO Regional Adviser participated in the above-mentioned meeting on electronics and presented a paper at the meeting.

37. Under the UNIDO/SELA Second Programme of Cooperation, particular attention will be devoted to the field of new technologies, with the aim of building upon and broadening the scope of existing programmes in the region, such as the Regional Microelectronics Network for Latin America and the Caribbean, under which a project is being financed by the UNDP Regional Programme, with UNIDO as the executing agency. Similar efforts include work in the fields of biotechnology, new materials, prospective studies on technology and technology management; in all of these areas, there is close cooperation between the two secretariats. Jointly sponsored meetings will be held on the topics of biotechnology policies and prospective studies on technology.

38. Activities in preparation for the Regional Conference on Industrialization, which is to be convened in accordance with the mandate of the Latin American Council of SELA, have continued to be conducted in close cooperation with UNIDO, ECLAC and IDB. In this connection, UNIDO, in conjunction with the other organizations sponsoring the event, has participated in the three consultative meetings held with the member countries of SELA at Caracas, Guatemala City and Port-of-Spain and attended the Preparatory Meeting of High-Level Government Experts for the Regional

Conference on Industrialization, which was held from 14 to 16 August at Caracas. It is anticipated that the Regional Conference will consider a proposal for a Latin American and Caribbean programme on industrialization for the 1990s, and will examine a proposed plan of action for joint implementation by the three above-mentioned agencies.

39. Within the framework of the SELA/UNIDO cooperation programme, activities were also conducted in a number of specific areas. One such area was that of forward technological planning. In this connection, in conjunction with the Latin American Commission on Science and Technology (COLCYT), the Meeting of Experts on Forward Technological Planning for Latin America and the Caribbean (SELA/COLCYT/UNIDO) was held at Caracas from 20 to 22 March 1991.

40. In addition, with support from UNIDO, the Permanent Secretariat held the Meeting for Industrial Consensus-Building in the Field of Biotechnology at Lima in October 1990, and preparations for a meeting on industrial consensus-building in the field of capital goods are being carried forward. The Permanent Secretariat also participated in the Regional Expert Group Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean on the Capital Goods Industry with Emphasis on Machine Tools, which took place at Santiago from 8 to 11 April 1991. This meeting was organized by UNIDO and was also sponsored by ECLAC and SELA.

41. In relation to cooperation between IMO and SELA, consultations are being pursued on the possible conclusion of a cooperation agreement between the two bodies for carrying out joint activities.

42. ITU has continued to attend the meetings of the SELA Latin American Council as an observer and, in 1990, the Latin American and Caribbean Broadcasting Union (ULCRA) held a coordination meeting to support SELA activities in the area of telecommunications.

43. The UNCTAD secretariat is cooperating closely with SELA in promoting or undertaking projects and programmes for the benefit of the member countries of SELA, both individually and collectively. Within the framework of project RLA/87/019 on support for trade development and trade negotiations, which is funded by UNDP and executed by UNCTAD in cooperation with ECLAC, various joint projects have been undertaken with SELA on issues of particular interest to Latin American and Caribbean countries in the areas of the international trading system, multilateral trade negotiations and services.

44. On the question of services, with respect to SELA, the work programme provides for the examination of the various services sectors at the expert level through meetings aimed at identifying the main elements for regional policy development in this area. It was agreed that, taking into account the positive results obtained through the joint work undertaken in 1989, such work should continue into 1990. The services sectors selected for these studies are insurance, professional services and tourism.

45. In addition, a workshop for specialists on technology policies was organized at Caracas from 4 to 8 June 1990 by the UNCTAD secretariat and the Programme for Development Cooperation of the Helsinki School of Economics, in cooperation with SELA and the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC). The event was hosted by the National Council for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICIT) of Venezuela and financed by the Government of Finland.

46. UNCTAD provided support to SELA in the preparation of a document on the purchasing power of Latin America and the Caribbean and its micro-economic dimensions in relation to the United States of America as a follow-up to the joint activities in this field in recent years.

47. In addition, some of the ongoing research activities of the Programme for Development Cooperation undertaken in cooperation with UNCTAD should be of interest to SELA, such as, for example, its analysis of the Enterprise for the Americas initiative. UNCTAD would welcome the opportunity to cooperate with SELA in this and other areas of common interest. Cooperation between the two institutions is currently being pursued in the subject area of the incorporation of environmental objectives into trade policy.

48. The global assessment and evaluation of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations was a priority area of work for UNDP/UNCTAD/ECLAC project RLA/87/019 and for SELA and was included in the 1990 work programmes of both the project and SELA. It was also an area where, as became evident in the exercise on services, the complementarity of the project's resources and expertise, on the one hand, and the political coordination and consultative role of SELA in the Latin American region, on the other, could best be put to work on behalf of the region as a whole and of its individual developing countries.

49. Accordingly, during the final stage of the Uruguay Round, the Permanent Secretariat of SELA and UNDP/UNCTAD/ECLAC regional project RLA/87/019 have prepared a joint analysis of the status of the negotiations from the standpoint of the interests of the Latin American and Caribbean countries based on the guidelines they adopted at the Fifth Consultative Meeting on the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, which was held within the framework of SELA at Geneva in June 1990. The quantitative analysis made of the tariff proposals made by the principal developed countries, together with a qualitative analysis of the status of the negotiations in other areas, served as the basis upon which the Latin American and Caribbean countries approved the "Evaluación sobre la situación de la Ronda Uruguay" [Evaluation of the status of the Uruguay Round] in November 1990 at the Sixth Consultative Meeting on the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations. Latin America and the Caribbean was the only region that presented a comprehensive, detailed assessment at the ministerial meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee at Brussels in December 1990. This joint effort also made it possible to continue to provide technical support to the delegations in specific subject areas of particular interest to the Latin American and Caribbean countries that were discussed by the various negotiating groups.

50. The valuable cooperative relationship that has been developed in the field of services by the Permanent Secretariat of SELA and the secretariat of UNCTAD, as well as the regional project, has made it possible to provide support to States members of SELA in the Uruguay Round of negotiations. The region has also presented a proposal concerning a multilateral framework for trade in services, and technical assistance in this area continues to be a priority subject for cooperation programmes being pursued with UNCTAD.

51. Documents were prepared by SELA on agriculture and on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights. National seminars were organized within the framework of the project, with the main objective of prompting the initiation of the evaluation and assessment process in the capital cities of individual Latin American countries. Also, it is important to note that, in collaboration with the interregional project and other regional projects, an international round table on agriculture was organized with the aim of bringing developing countries members of the Cairns Group together with other developing countries that have different concerns in the negotiations on agricultural issues, such as net food importers.

52. SELA, in conjunction with UNCTAD, organized a seminar entitled "Governability: Prospects in Regard to the Roles of the Public and Private Sectors in Promoting Sustainable Development", which took place at the headquarters of the Permanent Secretariat from 13 to 15 February 1991. The goal of the seminar was to promote an exchange of views concerning the concept of national governability as part of the preparations for the eighth session of UNCTAD. Furthermore, close collaboration has taken place between the secretariats of UNCTAD and SELA with regard to the preparations for the Latin American coordination meeting to be held prior to the eighth session of UNCTAD at Caracas (the preparatory stage of the meeting is scheduled for 28-30 August and the ministerial stage is to take place on 4 September 1991).

53. FAO participated in the annual meetings of the Latin American Council of SELA held at Caracas (1988 and 1990) and Cartagena, Colombia (1989). It also attended the annual meetings of Directors of International Technical Cooperation, which are sponsored by SELA, and the meetings of the Coordination Mechanism for Regional Bodies and Forums Engaged in TCDC Activities, which are held during the regular meetings of the Latin American Council of SELA.

54. Mutual consultations regarding complementary activities have taken place between FAO and the Executive Secretary of CADESCA. As a result of these consultations, FAO is assisting CADESCA to calculate producer subsidy equivalents (PSE) for maize, sorghum, rice and beans. In addition, FAO and CADESCA are studying the main problems affecting basic grain marketing in rural areas. The results of those studies will be presented and discussed at round tables to be held at Guatemala City and San Salvador in 1991.

55. Core I of the CADESCA Food Security Programme includes crop forecasting and food and nutrition surveillance. FAO has sought to incorporate national officers responsible for Core I of the CADESCA programme into the Food and Nutrition Surveillance System Technical Cooperation Network. The Meeting of

Users and Producers of Information on Food Availability and Access, which was held in Panama in 1988, was a complementary activity of FAO and CADESCA. In addition, CADESCA attended most of the meetings of the Network. CADESCA will also participate in the two workshops on data analysis and processing for food and nutritional surveillance, which are to be held in Costa Rica in 1991 in accordance with the work programme of FAO regional technical cooperation project RLA/0055(c). It is anticipated that the follow-up will be a joint action on the part of FAO, CADESCA and the Institute of Nutrition of Central America and Panama (INCAP) aimed at strengthening the countries' capabilities in the area of food intake analysis.

56. The secretariat of the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources has set up contacts with the interim secretariat of the Action Committee on Latin American Cooperation and Consultation on Plant Genetic Resources (CARFIT) regarding possible joint activities. Assistance was also given in the preparation of the work plan of the Action Committee and in the organization of the CARFIT meeting (1989), and financial support was furnished for two training courses (Costa Rica and Peru) held in 1989.

57. Technical advice was provided to the meeting on TCDC programming in aquaculture, which was convened by SELA, OLDEPESCA, UNDP and the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat at Mexico City in 1989. More than 110 cooperation activities involving exchanges of experts, training, joint research projects and exchanges of species were agreed among participants from 20 countries of the region.

58. In addition to its participation in meetings of the Latin American Council and the Action Committee for the Economic and Social Development of Central America, FAO attended the First Meeting of Organizations on Proposals for Integrated Social Policies vis-à-vis the Macroeconomic Adjustments in the Latin American and Caribbean Region, held at Caracas from 11 to 13 June 1990, and is participating in the work group that was created as a follow-up to that meeting. ECLAC is acting as the focal point for the group.

59. Furthermore, cooperation is envisaged between SELA and FAO for the establishment of a fertilizer information network for Latin America and the Caribbean that would be patterned after a successful regional network that FAO has sponsored in Asia.

60. Through its World Institute for Development Economics Research, UNU is cooperating in the implementation of specific technical cooperation activities included in the programme of work of the UNDP/ECLAC/UNCTAD project on financing for development. The joint programme on money and finance for development seeks to promote work on comparative studies concerning savings generation, mobilization and use in developing countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa. The main focus is to learn from experiences in this area in order to help define appropriate measures for expanding savings and ensuring their efficient allocation. Questions relating to foreign debt and its management will be examined as they relate both to constraints on growth and savings potential and to approaches for providing debt relief within the

context of financing for development. The programme of activities seeks to provide case-studies on savings and financing for development, as well as analytical and policy conclusions relevant to developing countries. Cooperation in this respect could be extended to SELA in the near future.

61. With a view to future cooperation with SELA, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has informed the Secretary-General of the United Nations about the steps it has taken in connection with securing funds for projects on the detection, monitoring and prediction of climate change as a means of meeting the specific requirements of member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

62. With respect to the relations of SELA with other institutions belonging to the United Nations system, such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) (World Bank) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), it should be noted that in the course of the forty-third ministerial-level meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Twenty-four on International Monetary Affairs (Washington, D.C., 22 September 1990), SELA reported on the results of the Regional Conference on External Debt and the resolutions approved at the Conference. In their statement, the ministers welcomed SELA's proposal and urged the Chairman of the Group of Twenty-four to present the document containing the proposal to the Managing Director of IMF and to the President of the World Bank. They also invited the executive directors of both institutions to take their recommendations into consideration during their future deliberations concerning debt strategy.

III. CONCLUSIONS

63. As may be seen from the above summary, cooperation between the United Nations system and the Latin American Economic System in the period covered by the present report has continued to grow stronger and broader in scope. The trend noted in the previous report towards the conclusion of agreements and conventions to provide a framework for such cooperation has also continued. A number of different organizations, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system that have not yet initiated cooperative activities with SELA have expressed their willingness to explore ways of doing so in the near future.

64. As may be seen in the report, an essential aspect of the work is being carried out through cooperation between ECLAC and SELA. These two organizations share various areas of endeavour, as well as the regional dimension of their activities, and undertake complementary tasks.

65. With regard to the request set forth in General Assembly resolution 45/5 that the Secretary-General promote, in close collaboration with the Permanent Secretary of SELA, the holding of a meeting in 1991 between their respective secretariats, with the aim of identifying those areas in which it will be possible to broaden cooperation, it should be noted that a number of working meetings were held in 1991 between SELA and United Nations organizations,

programmes and agencies, and it was agreed that the meeting called for in paragraph 6 of the resolution would be held on 27 September 1991 at United Nations Headquarters.

66. With respect to the request made by the General Assembly in the same resolution that the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Permanent Secretary of SELA continue consultations with a view to signing, as soon as possible, an agreement of cooperation between the two bodies, it should be noted that their consultations have been proceeding successfully and that such an agreement may be signed in the near future.